provider of the income and employment is facing a sharp drop in employment and income as a result of the import policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the disproportionate ratio between foodgrain and production and population growth might reach a stage where the country would run shot of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government on national level keeping in view the plight of farmers mainly from the milk producing areas of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) There has been an upward trend in agricultural production in recent years showing a positive influence on income and employment. Against the normative foodgrain requirement of 192.39 million tonnes for the year 1999, the production of foodgrains was estimated to be 203.04 million tonnes for the crop year 1998-99. Thus, the country has become not only self-sufficient, but also in a position to export foodgrains. In 1999-2000, the country is expected to achieve a record foodgrain production of 205.94 million tonnes. The Government has been using import tariffs as an instrument to protect the interests of the farmers and towards this end, the basic import-tariffs has been raised on a number of agricultural items, in recent months.

Misuse of Funds in Krishi Vigyan Kendra

471. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pelased to state:

(a) whether there has been complaints that crores of rupees have been siphoned off from Government in the name of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, several of them that are non-existent send manipulated audit utilization reports; and

(b) if so, the details and steps being taken, if any, to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No,

Sir. There are 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) including 149 under State Agricultural Universities and other educational institutions, 27 under ICAR institutes, 74 under Non-Government Organizations and the remaining 11 under Public Sector Udnertakings and State Governments.

The activties of the KVKs are strictly monitored by eight-Zonal Coordinating Units on regular basis. A Scientific Advisory Committee including the representatives of farmers, development departments, research and extension agencies has been constituted for each KVK to review the performance. The funds are released based on the audit utilization certificates commensurate with performance. Special audit teams are deployed for verification of records in case of any discrepancy.

Nine Quinquennial Review Teams also reviewed the functioning of the KVKs.

Loss of Lives Due to Floods in Arunachal Pradesh

472. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sudden floods in Arunachal Pradesh have claimed lives of many people;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the reason for the floods is probably due to some activity across the border; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the Chinese Government to prevent such happenings in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The state Government has reported that 24 people have died due to the flash floods.

(b) The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh felt that the floods could have been caused by a dam burst on the Chinese side.

(c) The matter was taken up with the Chinese side who conveyed